



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park

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Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Search Continues for Missing Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park staff continue their search today for a park ranger that was last seen by his co-workers at 11 a.m. at the Chapin Pass Trailhead off Old Fall River Road on Friday, July 29. Jeff Christensen was planning a backcountry patrol to the Lawn Lake Trailhead that evening. He did not contact park dispatch that evening and did not arrive for his shift on Saturday.

Today, approximately 100 people are involved in the search efforts for Jeff. Efforts continue to focus in the Mummy Range area where he was last seen. Last night search leaders studied maps to determine the areas they felt had been thoroughly covered and those that needed to be searched further. Two helicopters remain committed to the search. There are three dog teams from Larimer County Search and Rescue and two from Front Range Rescue Dogs. A specialized team from other National Park Service units in the Intermountain Region are in the park to assist with managing search efforts.

Searchers will continue to intensify their efforts in high probability areas in the Mummy Range and expand further north to Hagues Peak and Mummy Mountain. Today's search area covers roughly 26 square miles with extreme elevation. Much of the expanded search area

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will be covered using helicopters. Searchers continue to focus on steep hazardous terrain along the east side of Jeff's intended route of travel. There are several likely areas that people might typically descend to Lawn Lake and the Lawn Lake Trail that we will continue to search.

The Mummy Range is a remote, high altitude, rugged area which includes Mount Chapin, Mount Chiquita, Ypsilon Mountain and Desolation Peaks. There are few designated trails in the area and hiking mainly occurs cross country.

Jeff is 31-years-old and is an experienced mountaineer. He is extremely fit and capable of covering long distances in a short period of time. Although Jeff was not intending to spend the night he had a backpack with a variety of gear. He also had a park radio with him, however, in some drainages radio coverage is spotty or his battery could have run out. This is his fourth season as a park ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Jeff is an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and has worked ski patrol at Winter Park for the past seven years. His hometown is Fraser, Colorado.

Park officials are asking for help from visitors who might have seen Jeff in the Mummy Range area on Friday or Saturday to contact the park at (970) 586-1204 to help determine where he might have been seen last.

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